

HCS SB 12 -- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT

This bill prohibits a governmental authority from restricting a person's free exercise of religion unless the restriction is generally applicable, does not discriminate against religion, is necessary to further a compelling governmental interest, and is not unduly restrictive considering the relevant circumstances. Relevant circumstances may include legitimate penological interests needed to protect the safety and security of incarcerated persons and correctional facilities, but does not include reasonable requests by incarcerated individuals for the opportunity to pray, reasonable access to clergy, use of religious materials that are not violent or profane, and reasonable dietary requests. The bill also specifies that its provisions apply to all state and local laws, resolutions, and ordinances regardless of whether they were adopted before or after the bill's effective date.